

## **NCI's Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program**

The Clinical Trials Cooperative Group Program, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), is designed to promote and support clinical trials (research studies) of new cancer treatments, to explore methods of cancer prevention and early detection, and to study quality of life issues and rehabilitation during and after treatment.

Cooperative groups are composed of academic institutions and cancer treatment centers throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. They work with NCI to identify important questions in cancer research and to design carefully controlled clinical trials to answer these questions.

The Program involves more than 1,500 institutions that contribute patients to group-conducted clinical trials. Thousands of individual investigators also participate in NCI-supported cooperative group studies. Cooperative groups annually place approximately 20,000 new patients into cancer treatment clinical trials.

The groups differ in structure and research focus. Some groups, such as the National Wilms' Tumor Study Group, concentrate on treatment of a single type of cancer; some, such as the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, study a specific type of cancer therapy; and others, such as the Gynecologic Oncology Group, focus on a group of related cancers.

The groups share a common purpose—to develop and conduct large-scale trials in multi-institutional settings.

The Cooperative Group Program was established in 1955 following congressional approval to increase support for studies of chemotherapy for cancer. Congress initially appropriated \$5 million for NCI to establish the Chemotherapy National Service Center. By 1958, 17 cooperative groups were part of the Center. At that time, the main thrust of the program was to test new anticancer agents from NCI's drug development program. The emphasis on chemotherapy gradually shifted to studies of combined therapy approaches in cancer treatment.

People interested in taking part in a clinical trial should talk with their doctor. Information about clinical trials is available from the Cancer Information Service (CIS) at 1-800-4-CANCER and the NCI booklets *Taking Part in Clinical Trials: What Cancer Patients Need to Know* and *Taking Part in Clinical Trials: Cancer Prevention Studies*. These booklets describe how research studies are carried out and explain their possible benefits and risks. In addition, the cancerTrials™ Web site at <http://cancertrials.nci.nih.gov> on the Internet provides general information about clinical trials. It also offers detailed information about specific ongoing studies by linking to PDQ®, a cancer information database developed by NCI. The CIS also provides information from PDQ.

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### **Sources of National Cancer Institute Information**

#### **Cancer Information Service**

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

**NCI Online*****Internet***

Use <http://cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

***CancerMail Service***

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to [cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov](mailto:cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov) with the word "help" in the body of the message.

**CancerFax®** fax on demand service

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

**This fact sheet was reviewed on 8/29/00**

## **Clinical Trials Cooperative Groups**

### **American College of Radiology Imaging Network**

Bruce J. Hillman, M.D., Chair  
Fourteenth Floor  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<http://www.acrin.org>

### **American College of Surgeons Oncology Group**

Samuel Wells, M.D., Chair  
American College of Surgeons  
633 North Saint Clair  
Chicago, IL 60611-3211  
<http://www.acosog.org>

### **Cancer and Leukemia Group B**

Richard L. Schilsky, M.D., Chair  
Suite 2000  
208 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, IL 60604-1104  
<http://www-calgb.uchicago.edu>

### **Children's Cancer Group**

W. Archie Bleyer, M.D., Chair  
Department of Pediatrics, Box 87  
University of Texas, M.D. Anderson  
Cancer Center  
1515 Holcombe Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77030  
[http://www.nccf.org/nccf/AboutCCG/Ccg\\_who.htm](http://www.nccf.org/nccf/AboutCCG/Ccg_who.htm)

### **Children's Oncology Group Soft Tissue Sarcoma Committee**

William A. Crist, M.D., Chair  
Mayo Clinic  
200 First Street, SW.  
Rochester, MN 55905  
<http://rhabdo.org>

### **Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group**

Robert L. Comis, M.D., Chair  
Third Floor  
2115 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146  
<http://ecog.dfci.harvard.edu>

### **European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer**

Françoise Meunier, M.D., Director  
General  
EORTC Central Office  
Avenue E. Mounier 83, BTE 11  
1200 Brussels  
Belgium  
<http://www.eortc.be/default.htm>

### **Gynecologic Oncology Group**

Robert C. Park, M.D., Chair  
Suite 1945  
1234 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<http://www.gog.org>

### **National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group**

Joseph L. Pater, M.D., Director  
Queen's University  
82-84 Barrie Street  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6  
Canada  
<http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/>

### **National Surgical Adjuvant Project For Breast and Bowel Cancers**

Norman Wolmark, M.D., Chair  
Division of Surgical Oncology  
Allegheny General Hospital  
320 East North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-9986  
<http://www.nsabp.pitt.edu>

**National Wilms' Tumor Study Group**

Daniel M. Green, M.D., Chair  
Department of Pediatrics  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
Elm and Carlton Streets  
Buffalo, NY 14263  
<http://www.nwtsg.org>

**North Central Cancer Treatment Group**

Michael J. O'Connell, M.D., Chair  
Mayo Foundation  
200 First Street, SW.  
Rochester, MN 55905  
<http://ncctg.mayo.edu>

**Pediatric Oncology Group**

Sharon B. Murphy, M.D., Chair  
Suite 910  
645 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611  
<http://www.pog.ufl.edu>

**Quality Assurance Review Center**

Thomas J. Fitzgerald, M.D., Chair  
825 Chalkstone Avenue  
Providence, RI 02908  
<http://www.qarc.org>

**Radiation Therapy Oncology Group**

Walter J. Curran, Jr., M.D., Chair  
Fourteenth Floor  
1101 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
<http://www.rtog.org>

**Southwest Oncology Group**

Charles A. Coltman, M.D., Chair  
14980 Omicron Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78245-3217  
<http://www.swog.org>